PERIODICO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM · LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO · PLP

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Bosses' Cops Protect Racists

Workers Shut Down Klan

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA, July 8—Fifteen hundred anti-racists militantly confronted the KKK today, shouting powerful chants that forced them to shut down their racist rally. PLP and members of the Seven Hills Progressive Society from Lynchburg Virginia joined this multiracial rally of workers and students. As usual, the local ruling class used their state power to protect these racists, deploying around 200 kkkops in riot gear to attempt to hold back the anti-racist counter-protesters. This exercise of state power was a reminder that racism is critical to the life of their capitalist system.

Chased the Klan Away

The group of about 50 Klansmen, some in their traditional white robes, came to Charlottesville to oppose the removal of a statue of General Robert E. Lee, a leading figure of the pro-slavery U.S. Confederacy. They were escorted in by the kkkops, who had been sent to "protect members of the Ku Klux Klan from counterprotesters" (New York Times, 7/8). They were quickly drowned out by the chants of the demonstrators. PL'ers joined antiracist chants, and many demonstrators took CHALLENGE, vowing to continue the struggle against racism and the KKK. In just under an hour the Klan members finally slunk away. The antiracists refused to let the Klan go quietly, and chased after them, fiercely chanting. The riot cops viciously responded by attacking the anti-racist demonstrators with tear gas and 22 arrests.

State Terror Unleased on Antiracist Protesters

It's no surprise that the bosses used their cops to attack antiracists, but protect the KKK instead. Since the founding of this country racism was used to justify slavery, the system Robert E. Lee fought to defend. Numerous local, state and federal laws passed over centuries were required to entrench racist divisions inside the working class, and weaken our ability to fight back against our exploitation. The most vicious state terror was used by police on working people who insisted on struggling together against exploitation (see Lerone Bennett's "Road Not Taken" on the lynch law of colonial era as well as the Hollywood film "Free State of Jones" on the Reconstruction era which followed the Civil War.)

The kkkops brought out against the antiracists today functioned in this capitalist tradition when they attacked us. As the PLP chant goes: "the cops, the courts, the Ku Klux Klan: all are part of the bosses' plan."

In fact, the mayor of Charlottesville, Mike Signer, called on residents to stay away from the rally, as if nonviolence defeated the Confederacy. He tried to encourage workers to attend alternate events orchestrated by NAACP misleaders. Whenever the KKK or Nazis rear their ugly head, liberal misleaders and churches do their best to keep people from fighting back.

Signer's pleas to ignore gutter racism clearly didn't stop these 1,500 fighters that boldly showed up. One anti-Klan protester said that she wanted to come "because I believe that if you just stay silent, nothing gets done" (npr.org, 7/9). When the Klan is confronted by multiracial fightback, they are terrified. PLP has a long history of beating them back and driving them out of our streets.

When the working class rejects passivity and organizes multiracial fightback against gutter racists like these, and the racism of this system, we are training for when we will need to defeat the capitalists for good.

The militancy of these 1,500 antiracists shows the potential of the working class to win. Turning the fight against racism, sexism, and nationalism into an international fight for a working-class run society—communism—is the only way to once and for all smash the horrors of this racist and sexist capitalist system.✪

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OUR FIGHT

☆Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

☆The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

☆Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

☆While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

☆Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

☆Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

☆Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

☆Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

☆Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

☆Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorials

North Korean Missile

On Track for Imperialist War

When the leaders speak of peace,
The common people know that war is coming.
When the leaders curse war, the mobilization orders are already written out.

—Bertolt Brecht, German communist

On July 4, the celebration of U.S. imperialism, and just three days prior to the G20, the annual gathering of the world's leading capitalist states and their bankers, North Korea launched an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of reaching Alaska. The launch intensified tensions between the U.S. and China and moved the world closer to the next major war.

While war is inevitable under capitalism, none of the major imperialist powers are presently able to win masses of workers to fight and die for the rulers' interests. Although the bosses are all planning for war, world events are not fully under their control. Historically, an important task of communists is to warn the working class of coming war and to organize to turn imperialist war into class war for communism, where the working class seizes state power. That task is now more important than ever.

Nuclear Weapons in an Inter-Imperialist Flashpoint

North Korean bosses, led by Kim Jong-un, have learned the fatal danger of giving in to the United States. They witnessed the overthrow of Muammar el-Qaddafi, the top Libyan boss for more than 40 years, after Libya surrendered its nuclear weapons program. "That is what Mr. Kim believes his nuclear program will prevent—an American attempt to topple him. He may be right" (New York Times, 7/5).

The Korean Peninsula is a historic buffer and invasion route, a node of vital imperialist interests in East Asia. The U.S. threat of force was aimed to intimidate North Korea and China and reassure its wary allies. But despite talk of a pre-emptive strike on North Korea's missile installations, U.S. maneuverability is limited by its own internal instability and increasing isolation.

Shifting Alliances, Global and Regional

The weakening of U.S. imperialism correlates with a global power shift. The major U.S. imperialist rivals, China and Russia, appear to be drawing closer to each other, at least for the moment. A temporary collaboration between the U.S. and China to subdue North Korea has given way to a joint effort by China and Russia. The two countries' foreign ministries have proposed a moratorium on North Korea's testing of nuclear explosive devices and ballistic missiles while asking the U.S. and South Korea to halt their "large-scale joint exercises" (The Duran, 6/5).

Indeed, Russia and China have common interests there. Both share a land border with North Korea and have diplomatic relations with Pyongyang. But, above all, both are desperate to check US ambitions in their backyards. It's this desire, this fear of being hemmed in by the West and its allies, that is one of the factors pushing Moscow and Beijing together in a seemingly ever-tightening embrace (CNN, 6/7).

Instability Begets Instability

The relative decline of the U.S. as the top imperialist super-power is reflected in the behavior of its longtime regional allies in East Asia, Japan and South Korea. The new president of South Korea, Moon Jae-in, claims the country will "learn to say no" to U.S. rulers (Washington Post, 5/9). South Korea has already stopped deployment of the U. S. THAAD anti-missile system, which China considered a threat. Moon Jae-in is well aware that his nation would be North Korea's first target in a nuclear war.

Japan, the main regional rival to China and main regional ally for the U.S., is also wavering. Japan felt slighted by Donald Trump's withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the trade agreement embraced by Trump's predecessor, Barack Obama. By entering a new trade deal with the European Union, Japan sent the U.S. a message: "Both [Japan and the EU] want to show that they can fill the vacuum left by America's withdrawal under…Trump from its role as the world's trade leader" (The Economist, 7/8).

Diplomacy + Military Buildup = Inevitable War

For a capitalist power in crisis and decay, the solution is sure to be war. Diplomacy—and its inevitable rupture—paves the way. As the bosses' media noted, North Korea's actions were "quickly closing off the possibility of a diplomatic solution" and the United States was "prepared to defend itself and its allies with its considerable military forces if need be" (Reuters, 7/6).

Richard Haass, president of the Council of Foreign Relations, the leading think tank in service to U.S. he-

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Day 1 of Chicago Project:

Youth & Workers Engage Transit Workers, Learn Political Economy

Young people give speeches for the first time at a protest in front of hospital. We We greeted transit workers at their bus barns before dawn with CHALLENGE and encouragement to fight back. On the first day, 1,000 members of the working class received CHALLENGE.

The following letters hail from participants of the Summer Project in Chicago. Over 50 students, parents, teachers, transit workers, and community organizers gathered to learn to fight against capitalism, and to fight to learn about communist consciousness. This multiracial, multi-generational, and multi-gendered group came from all corners of the country. These are reflections from the first day of a communist boot camp. See more next issue!

★

I was so excited to participate in the 2017 Summer Project in Chicago where I met so many people committed to fighting for the working class.

During our first study group session, I shared my experience as a working-class student within the Brooklyn Public School System.

Sharing my experiences with fellow party members helped me to acknowledge how my high school is preparing me to face what the reality is for workers under Capitalism.

For example, School Safety Officers are posted at my school. Whenever I enter my school, in the morning or after a fire drill, I am treated like a prisoner. My school bag is searched. I feel like a criminal at my school because it is a place where I'm being taught to obey authority.

Many of the teachers in my school do not agree with security guards having a presence in our school. But the bosses at the DOE, who really run the schools, decide that students in working class neighborhoods should be treated like criminals.

I realize that the police presence in my school is only one part of a complex system that at every point mistreats and exploits workers, when I think about the poisoned food we're given for lunch and the poisoned ideas we're taught in the classroom.

It was important for me to share my experience

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MTA Workers Demand on the-Job Safety, but Off Track with Anti-Rider Politics

BROOKLYN, May 18—Chanting, "Hey! Hey! Ho! Ho! Assaults have got to go!" over 50 MTA workers rallied and marched from the union hall across the Brooklyn Bridge to 2 Broadway (MTA headquarters) against the rising number of MTA workers being assaulted on the job.

The organizers who led the march are from one of the many MTA factions trying to fight for an active union to defend its membership. This non-union-led march brought together MTA workers from different titles (conductors, train operators, cleaners, bus drivers) to call on the union and MTA bosses to protect their workforce. Many workers and tourists along the march route chanted and cheered. Random yelling of "MTA sucks!" and "No fare hikes!" and car honking in solidarity greeted the marchers.

No Safety Under Capitalism

Speaker after speaker condemned the MTA bosses for not protecting their workforce, instead using lawyers to deny worker's compensation to those out of work from assaults. When a worker is assaulted, if they are not wearing all their protective equipment their claims can be denied, forcing many workers back to work or into debt. If you were assaulted and you weren't wearing your gloves, we can't pay you. That is the MTA's mantra.

The rally and march ended when a hearse arrived and laid a casket in front of the MTA headquarters. A speaker made the point that it's only when MTA workers die that the bosses act!

According to an internal memo from the MTA on assaults in the subways from the past five months, 76 workers were assaulted. The attacks are mostly workers being spat on. They also include objects thrown at workers and female workers being sexually assaulted. Verbal abuse is not counted as part of the assaults although it's a daily occurrence for workers. Since these statistics came out at least another 20 subway workers have reported assaults. The report leaves out the many surface workers (bus operators) who face a far higher rate of assault within the MTA.

Workers Discuss Solutions Centered On Bosses' System

The solution for most at the rally all centered around the bosses' courts and cops. People talked about fighting for an increase in police presence on buses and subways. Others added, the need to reach out to supportive politicians to change the laws to create stiffer penalties for people who attack workers. One speaker discussed building an alliance between customers and MTA workers.

But the bosses' solutions to workers' safety are their own tools of oppression: more cops, more convictions, and more divisions between members of the working class.

Since the rally, there have been many conversations about next steps. Though there is not much agreement on the next step. The only clear agreement is that we have to do something.

Build Class Consciousness Through Struggle

Progressive Labor Party has seen time and time again: that bosses only protect profits. The bosses only care about giving workers the bare minimum. The answer to the attacks is not fascist attacks (in the form of arrest) on riders. The system does enough killing via the racist police in our neighborhoods. Let's not demand as workers the terrorization of members of our class. We need more class-consciousness, gained through struggle. We need rider-worker unity against the bosses. Only then will we defeat the attacks.

Members of the Transit Workers' Union (TWU) must develop the idea that an attack on one worker is an attack on every worker. If the cops kill someone, the TWU workers must answer the call to fight back. If there is a push to lower the fare, the TWU workers must answer the call to fight back. When the bosses try to shut a hospital or make healthcare cuts, TWU workers must answer the call. When TWU workers join the fight-back within the city, then and only then will the assault percentages drop. TWU workers have to stand with other workers. And the fight for communism must lead the reform struggle! Workers are stronger together and workers should fight for each other!✪

Colombia

Construction Workers Halt Bosses' Production

COLOMBIA—In response to the delay in payment of salaries, 60 angry and courageous construction workers went on strike several months ago, demanding to get back stolen pay. Members of Progressive Labor Party have been working with these workers for more than a year, distributing the paper, discussing the situation of the working class, wage slavery and dialectical materialism. One member of PLP even participated in the activities by advising the workers and trying to prevent retaliations from the bosses.

In reaction to the strike, the bosses brought workers from other sites to sabotage the strike. The bosses tried to convince workers that he wasn't responsible for the scabs and that "other factors" brought them in. Disgusted at his lies, the workers refused to believe him. They intensified their struggle by blocking the entrance to the site, not even letting in supplies. The member of PLP involved tried to protect workers from the bosses' retaliation. Despite best efforts, the desperate bosses fired ten workers.

Lessons from the Strike

During the evaluation after the strike, we discussed the lessons of this action with the workers. We asked them why they didn't take into account that the bosses might retaliate and fire workers. They responded that they did not think the bosses would respond so harshly when workers were simply demanding their hard-earned salaries. In reality, the bosses don't care about stealing from workers. Bosses already steal from workers in order to make profits. The wages any workers receive are nothing compared to the profits that workers create for the bosses. Bosses are crooks by nature, so we can't trust them to be nice when workers fight back.

We concluded that workers cannot trust capitalist laws, which were made to justify private property, not to defend working-class needs. We also cannot trust in pacifism, because the bosses will use violence whenever they need to in order to keep workers in line. We have to learn from this valuable experience and be more organized next time. Spontaneity cannot replace leadership and organization. We are still debating with six workers and circulating CHALLENGE at this site.

Whole Damn System Has Got to Go

While workers struggle to get paid their meager wages, Colombia's productive sector is generating multimillions in profits due to the surge in construction and mining. None of those profits go to enrich the working class. They are going straight to the thick bank accounts of the bosses and rulers. Still worse, the bosses' filthy mines ruin working-class neighborhoods. A UN report found that mining has taken severe tolls on "access to water, health, [and the] development of agricultural activity" and "a high rate of prostitution also occurs among young people, including high school students, and drug addiction, mainly among men" in

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Chicago Mayor's Racism

Grad Plan Props Up Wider War & Growing Fascism

Barack Obama's best buddy Mayor Rahm Emmanuel has once again proven himself equal to his buddy in the task of generating ever-new ways of attacking Black youth in this city. Workers here will never forget his sixteen month cover-up of the police murder of sixteen year old Laquan McDonald. Now Emmanuel is trying to pass off a thinly veiled stratagy to bolster U.S. troop levels in an era of widening war as an act of "compassion" for the mainly Black youth of Chicago.

Racist Rahm has cooked up this insidious operation by intrroducing new high school graduation requirements for Chicago Public Schools. Starting with the class of 2020, students who have completed all academic requirements to graduate will not receive a diploma without a "post graduation plan": seniors must certify they have a college acceptance, a job, a "gap year" (a year off before starting college), a job training program, or have joined the military in order to finish high school.

The finely tuned gradations for "worthiness" inherent in Emmanuel's multi-track proposal leave unspoken the fate of the many tens of thousands of students who the schools and overburdened counselors will inevitably fail. As scores of students suffer a widespread unemployment crisis with its attendant gang activity, gun violence, police repression and mass incarceration.

The unemployment rate for Chicago youth between the ages of 20-24 is a staggering 47 percent for Black men and 20 percent for Latin men. Black and Latin students make up 84 percent of CPS (Chicago Tribune, 1/17). Due to the racism inseparable from capitalism students who cannot get

into college and cannot find work are more likely to be Black and Latin. Such a requirement is a covert attempt to push many of these youth into the bloody hands of the U.S. military.

A hallmark of fascism is winning workers to viewing some portion of our class as good, worthy and productive members of society, and others as hindrances, and a drag on the potential of the nation, and ultimately as expendable. This dynamic is the essence of Trump's infamous "Muslim ban" or the debates over the "Dreamer" immigration scheme. In each case the capitalist state is expanding agreement with scrutinizing and terrorizing entire populations and branding entire segments as unworthy and stripping them of any pretense of "rights."

As the drive towards war intensifies, the rulers need our young people to be "military ready". The Council on Foreign Relations, a ruling class think tank, made this clear in a 2012 report on military preparedness written by former NYC schools chancellor Joel Klein and Condoleezza Rice, former Na-

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PL'er Confronts Anti-Immigrant Fascists, Galvanize Antiracists

NEW YORK CITY, June 29—We can't permit any racist actions! This thought was on my mind today, the day the U.S. Supreme Court gave the green light for openly racist President Donald Trump's fascist executive order to go into effect. The Supreme Court allowed the ban which prohibits persons from six mostly Arab, Muslim countries from entering the U.S., an attempt by the US government to further divide the working class along racial and nationalistic lines.

Some members of the Progressive Labor Party joined an emergency protest called by the NY Immigration Coalition. The protest began in Union Square as about 600 people chanted, "No Ban, No Wall" and "No hate, no fear, immigrants are welcome here." Several representatives of the Democratic Party spoke at the protest. These politicians put on a mask of being anti-racist while in reality, their political agenda differs only slightly from the Republicans who hold power in Congress, and support racist and sexist policies that serve the capitalist bosses.

After the speeches, we began the march to the headquarters of the union 32BJ where there was an immigration forum. As we marched we chanted in English and Spanish. I was in the front with my organization. At the union local, we encountered four racists in front of the police who held up signs saying "Syrians out."

None of the "leaders" of the march said anything to confront the racists. As a communist in PLP, full of anger, I held my anti-racist sign in the faces of these KKK types and began to chant loudly. All the protesters joined in with loud chants until the police moved the fascist provocateurs to the opposite sidewalk. The anti-racist marchers applauded, gave thumbs up and fists in the air. It was very moving for me to be able to show on a small scale how a communist member of PLP can give leadership. I remembered a saying I learned in my youth, "Where a communist is born, difficulties die."

This is what we communists must keep in mind as we prepare for the day that we are a Party of masses around the world ready to launch revolution for the seizure of workers' power and the building of a communist society. Meanwhile these small actions show the difference between the message of communists, and reformists, who allow racists to spout their hateful rhetoric under the excuse of "Free Speech."

At the end of the protest someone handed me a megaphone and I continued to chant energetically, joined by the other demonstrators until we entered the union hall for the forum. We must not be silent in the face of racist attacks on workers, nor be deceived by liberal misleaders who attack the working class at every opportunity, we must continue to fight for communism!✪

Remember Korea and the 'Forgotten War'

The U.S. bosses are contemplating another imperialist war on the Korean peninsula. Like all imperialists they don't want the international working class knowing the real history of Korea. Like all imperialists they are terrified that if the workers in the U.S. and Korea knew about the "forgotten" Korean War, the workers would unite, turn the guns around, and shoot this imperialist system down.

Jeju. Koje. No Gun Ri. Daejeon. Sinchon. These are the names of some places in present-day North Korea that the international working class must never forget, alongside countless others where workers said "enough" to imperialist war and fought back.

Part of fighting to keep the memory and history of the working class of Korea alive is understanding how there came to be a "North" and "South" Korea in the first place.

Korea: From Feudalism to Fascism to Socialism

The Korean peninsula was a largely feudal kingdom until Japanese imperialists invaded in 1910. Korean workers and peasants were considered subhuman to the Japanese fascists. Japanese fascism meant Korean men grew food for the army in slave-like conditions, and Korean women were forced into sex slavery.

On August 15, 1945, the communist-led Soviet Red Army liberated the northern half of the Korean peninsula. The U.S. imperialists had just dropped atomic bombs on their Japanese imperialist rivals, and threatened the Red Army if they moved south.

What became "North" Korea literally changed overnight. On day one:

- "People's Committees" led by women and youth, accountable to mass meetings in every village, were the new government.
- Landlords were arrested or driven out.
- Japanese fascist soldiers, police, Japanese-trained Korean police, government officials, and collaborators were thrown into their own prisons.
- All forms of sex slavery were abolished.
- Education, healthcare, childcare, housing, transportation, clothing, meaningful employment, leisure, access to culture, freedom of choice in relationships and marriage were guaranteed to all workers.

Over the next several years, workers in the North built the foundations of socialism, modeled on the then-socialist Soviet Union.

Meanwhile, U.S. bosses kept the Japanese fascists in power in what became South Korea. They maintained every aspect of Japanese rule, including sex slavery, and opened segregated brothels for the U.S. military.

U.S. Imperialists Respond with Massacre

When workers in the South learned about the advances in the North through the Communist Party, they formed their own People's Committees and rebelled. On Jeju island, an estimated 80 percent of the island's 300,000 workers were communists, and in 1948 a rebellion erupted against the U.S. occupation. The U.S. burned the entire island in response.

Massacres like this occurred with greater frequency and desperation under U.S. imperialism. With a taste of workers' power in the North, the working class refused to submit and dared to resist.

In 1950, the U.S. finally attempted outright invasion of the North. Demonstrations supporting the North erupted worldwide. The monstrous Korean war raged for three years and claimed millions of workers' lives. The workers fought on—even under the threat of nuclear annihilation by the U.S. bosses—and showed the world the meaning of mass bravery.

Workers' power was later reversed in North Korea, and PLP has analyzed the failures of socialism elsewhere.

The U.S. bosses call Korea "The Forgotten War" precisely because they hope it will be forgotten. But the working class of Korea will never be forgotten. PLP aspires to the legacy of the Korean workers' commitment to revolution. Deserving that legacy means fighting onward to the final victory of communism. Our victory will be their vengeance.✪

On Track for Imperialist War

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gemony, recently rejected two U.S. options: accepting North Korea as a nuclear state or an immediate military strike. With diplomatic negotiations having repeatedly failed to stop North Korea's nuclear program, the best Haass can propose is "more creative diplomacy," a transitional step toward a war that will slaughter millions of workers:

> *"Trump correctly concluded that the greatest threat to U.S. national security is North Korea's accelerating nuclear and missile programs…*
>
> *An interim agreement would not solve the…problem…And even if diplomacy failed again, at least the United States would have demonstrated that it tried negotiations before turning to one of the other, more controversial options" (Foreign Affairs, July/August).*

For all their hypocritical talk about diplomacy, sanctions, and the horrors of nuclear conflict, the U.S. bosses are just buying time. Preparations for bigger wars are proceeding at full speed. New submarine-based "super-fuze" devices triple the killing power of the U.S. ballistic missile arsenal, which was already exponentially more threatening than North Korea's nukes. As the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists notes (3/1), the implications for World War III are clear:

> *"Russian planners will almost surely see the advance in fuzing capability as empowering an increasingly feasible US preemptive nuclear strike capability—a capability that would require Russia to undertake countermeasures that would further increase the already dangerously high readiness of Russian nuclear forces. "*

Need Nationalism for Warfare

The U.S. bosses know from past experience (such as in Vietnam) that technological superiority is not enough to prevail in war. Unless masses of workers—including working-class soldiers—are won to lethal nationalist ideas, the capitalist rulers will lose. For all of Trump's weaknesses, his "America First" sloganeering helps the bosses divide the international working class, and mislead U.S. workers into identifying with their murderous rulers. The bosses' media plays its anti-communist part by attacking North Korea as a repressive dictatorship and painting its workers as unthinking robots. In reality, every government on earth today—with or without the cover of "democratic" elections—is a dictatorship of the capitalist class. And as the history of the Korean Peninsula attests, workers have the potential to fight back (see above article).

Turn Imperialist War Into Class War

In the 21st century alone, imperialist war and the ravages of capitalism have destroyed the lives of tens of millions of workers. An inter-imperialist proxy war has decimated Syria, with hundreds of thousands killed and millions made refugees. Imperialist war remains the bosses' ultimate weapon in their perpetual battle to dominate resources, markets, and labor, all in pursuit of maximum profit.

Living on the brink of wider war has become the "new normal." This is a great danger for the international working class, especially in the absence of a mass anti-imperialist mobilization, as we saw in the communist-led and communist-influenced movements during the Vietnam War.

With unpredictable politicians like Trump, Vladimir Putin, and Kim Jong-un, a major war could erupt sooner rather than later. But most workers are not yet won to the bosses' agenda. The Progressive Labor Party's task is to rebuild hope and class consciousness among the workers of the world—to show that communism is a future worth fighting for. Let's turn these imperialist wars for profit into a class war for communist revolution. Let's redouble our efforts to build PLP. Power to the working class!✪

Bosses Put Profit Over Disabled Workers' Health

Healthcare and Congress' alternative to the (Un)Affordable Care Act is a hot topic. People all over the U.S. have been fighting back on these possible health care cuts. On this date there was a rally held in Indianapolis, Indiana to confront Senator Todd. Todd, and the ruling class are proposing cutting Medicaid, which will have a deadly effect on people with disabilities. The racist cuts will also hit Black workers heavily. Twenty-eight percent of adult Black workers under 65 depend on Medicaid. At the demonstration, cops showed no mercy to workers with disabilities as they stole phones to erase evidence and assaulted others—sending one person to the hospital.

ADAPT, a disability rights organization, asked its members to engage with politicians about the deadly affect this could have.

The ruling class will do anything to promote the idea that workers are just another commodity. When profits are main concern, workers with disabilities are seen as people who can't carry their weight in society (i.e. pad the bosses pockets) and do not deserve handouts. The bosses will turn right around and give the same vicious treatment to any member of the working class who dare oppose their tyranny.

Too often, not enough comrades are present to build among the people to put their bodies on the line to oppose the bosses' greed. The working class has to be present, active, and able to organize with lack of accessibility. If we fellow workers do not show up to these struggles, we leave our comrades with disabilities behind with dead-end reformist lines. We as workers can not afford to undervalue the leadership that workers with disabilities can bring to our ranks. Our fight for a communist world is one that seeks the end of the mistreatment of workers with disabilities by developing all of us into leaders of communist revolution.✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Summer Project Letters: Fighting to Learn, Learning to Fight

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with the comrades and friends in the room today because it allowed me to remember that I'm not the only one and my school is not the only school facing these issues.

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The workers of ATU local 241 voted in favor of the pre-strike authorization. It has been forty-eight years since they went on strike. PLP came out to do agitational work and support our working class brothers and sisters in transit. With the combination of rail and bus workers on strike, they have the potential to shut the city down. One worker came from the bus barn, walked across the sidewalk where the party was giving leaflets, and crossed the street to get a coffee before his shift at Dunkin Donuts. Before he went up the driveway to clock in for work, holding his coffee in one hand, he held out his other hand and said, "you guys can't cross the line but I can because I work here. Give me a stack of the flyers to pass out." Overall, the workers were responsive to the paper and realized we have their backs. The Chicago cops showed up multiple times only to be ignored as workers continued to take CHALLENGE.

Later that day, a study group was held about Political Economy. It consisted of rich deep dwelling political ideology and the understanding of the capitalist wage system. During one part we discussed how the capitalist school systems teach false pseudoscience economics. They don't talk about exploitation, workers as a commodity, exchange and use value, but we worked to understand the importance of those ideas. We also discussed how commodities would be produced for and by the working class under communism—for need, not for profit. Under capitalism the driving force is profit. Commodities are produced with little regard for use value. This results in alienation between the workers and their production, as well as overproduction and capitalist crisis. Other examples of economics under capitalism we discussed were how the U.S. Department of Agriculture spent millions for the purpose of destruction of food because if it can't be sold then it must be destroyed.

The next time we go to talk to transit workers, we will bring back the ideas of political economy. We know that political economy is a tool our class needs to destroy this system of exploitation and oppression. Workers striking is a great start! Class struggle has the potential to teach lessons that prepare us for revolution and show us the power of our class.

It is just a start though. No matter what reforms are passed because of the strike, no matter who becomes president—white or Black, man or woman—nothing will fix this rotten capitalist system. Asian, Latin, Black and white, workers of the world must unite to smash capitalism and this dark night.

★

The summer project was lit! To start off the project, we woke up mad early at 3:00 in the morning to sell CHALLENGE to the Chicago Transit Authority bus drivers at 4 am. It was hard getting up that early but it helps us understand their struggle. My team had conversations with many workers who expressed their frustrations about low wages, long hours and lack of sleep. Imagine—we woke up at 3 am just one day, but these workers have to do this every day!

It was really great to connect with the workers and to ask questions and learn more about their struggles and their ideas about what needs to be done. Our comrades were aware that their contract is coming to an end and they might strike.

At our bus barn location, we decided to walk right into the building to the breakroom where the workers were, until the manager came out and told us we could not be there and had to move. When she left, we stormed right in to get to the workers as they were clocking in for their shift. That's when we met a bus worker who is trying to organize his coworkers. We told him we gotta fight back, with multiracial unity, and sometimes break the rules of the union to fight back. He agreed.

He told us how he believes in supporting other workers, which is why he flew out to support the teachers' strike in Ohio. It's nice to know that many of our communist principles are still very much alive within the working class. My team and I got over 50 papers out and made some contacts—and we were just getting started!

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Frederick Douglass: July 4th Celebrates Criminals

U.S. rulers' outpouring of patriotism for July 4th, with its band-playing parades and flag-waving, only serves to cover up their history of slavery. While the Declaration of Independence declared that "all men are created equal" [though not women, much less Black people], Frederick Douglass, the great anti-slavery abolitionist leader, spoke to a July 4th gathering of the Ladies of the Rochester Anti-Slavery Sewing Society asking "What, to the American slave, is your 4th of July?"

"I answer; a day that reveals…more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice to which [they are] the constant victim(s)….

"Your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciation of tyrants, brass fronted impudence; your shouts of liberty and equality, hollow mockery;

"Your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious parade, and solemnity, are [to them]…mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and hypocrisy—a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages.

"There is not a nation on earth guilty of practices, more shocking and bloody, than are…these United States, at this very hour."

To this day, the celebration of "freedom" on July 4 lays bare the attempt by the ruling class to build blind patriotism and support of the U.S. war machine, in the face of mass incarceration of hundreds of thousands of Black workers, rampant police murder of Black women and men, mass deportations of workers across the bosses' borders, and the capitalist exploitation of the entire working class. What freedom?

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Racist Clinton Debased Medgar Evers Students

On June 8, almost 54 years after Medgar Evers was assassinated for fighting segregation in the South, especially in higher education, his contribution to the struggle was debased when Hillary Clinton spoke at the commencement of CUNY's Medgar Evers College and was given an honorary doctorate. Given Clinton's support for her husband's mass incarceration bill that put hundreds of thousands of Black workers and youth in jail, and his neo-liberal policies that undermined the few welfare programs that supported Black working-class families, I found the irony too outrageous to bear.

I wasn't alone. Komokoda (a Haitian community group in New York) along with Peoples Power Assemblies organized a small protest outside the Medgar Evers graduation ceremony. I joined them, and we alternated between chanting and conversing among ourselves and with passersby. Several members of Komokoda were survivors of the 2010 earthquake. They were outraged by Clinton's interference in the relief efforts—redistributing charity from the poor in Haiti to the Haitian, and multinational, ruling class. The protesters argued, rightfully, that Clinton's commencement speech was just another step in her return to the public spotlight. We all recognized that there was no contradiction in opposing both Trump and Clinton.

Chants included "No resurrection for Hillary Clinton!" Slogans on protest signs addressed her dehumanizing, racist accusation in the 1990s that some black youths are "super-predators" with "no conscience, no empathy." Other signs targeted Medgar Evers President Rudy Crew for allowing an important milestone in the lives of CUNY students to be twisted into a publicity event for Clinton's resurrection as part of "the resistance" [against Trump's presidency].

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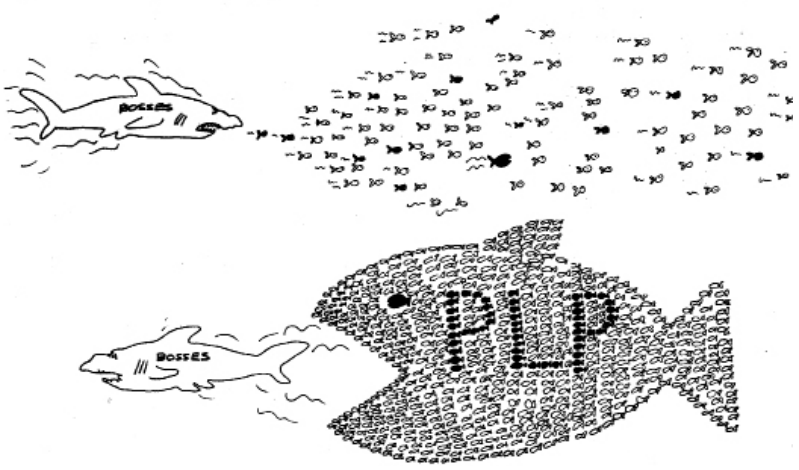
Chicago Mayor's Racism
Grad Plan Props Up Wider War & Growing Fascism

Continued from page 4

tional Security Advisor to George W. Bush. That report promoted "Common Core Standards" as a way to academically prepare more young people for today's military, redoubled expansion of STEM programs to produce the engineers and technically proficient soldiers required in today's heavily computerized military and even more exposure to foreign languages to facilitate communication with the peoples of far off lands US imperialism seeks to dominate.

The bosses' military has deep roots in the Chicago Public Schools (CPS), with six military high schools: three for the Army and one each specializing in training for the Navy, Marines, and the Air Force. More than 9000 students, predominately Black and Latin, are enrolled in Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp (JROTC), where half of the drill-sergeant/teacher salaries are paid by the Armed Forces. For schools suffering from years of racist budget cuts JROTC is less a choice than a necessity. Emmanuel is leading the charge in preparing Black and Latino youth to die or get wounded fighting for the bosses' profits. In Iraq and Afghanistan, Army soldiers were almost twice as likely to be injured or killed, compared to other military forces. In CPS, 80% of students in JROTC are in Army programs (Chicago Reporter, 1/14).



PLP's recently concluded summer project was a glimpse of a readiness program for youth that couldn't be more different from racist Rahm's. We are making ourselves ready to organize revolution and lead a worker-run communist society. Over the course of a week our intergenerational, multiracial and gender-diverse collective pushed our limits. We organized demonstrations, reached out to workers in the transit, health care, steel and temp sectors. We examined capitalism's inherent exploitative nature in study groups and explored our communist alternative in theory and in practice. Peers from other cities joined Chicago youth across the U.S. in playing a leading role in this project (see page 6). As the bosses' war plans gather momentum, PLP is building internationalist class consciousness among workers and youth. We do that so that in coming wars soldiers will do as they have in the past and turn the guns on their class enemies instead of their working class brothers and sisters in other parts of the world. They will be part of rebuilding a new communist world "from the ashes of the old."✪

Philando Castile:

Black Workers Assassinated Once in the Street, Once More in Courts

Capitalism rules by both deception and force. This is apparent in the murder of Philando Castile, and the subsequent acquittal of the kkkop who killed him. On July 6, 2016, Diamond Reynolds live-streamed the moments directly after her boyfriend was shot multiple times by police officer Jeronimo Yanez. About eleven months later, a jury returned a verdict of not guilty on all three charges against Yanez.

A huge part of Yanez's defense was the accusation that Philando was a drug user, but police reports and news made no mention of drug use. It was only later that, kkkop Yanez said, and implored jurors to believe, "I feared for my life...I thought...if he had the audacity to use marijuana...to just smoke in front of his five-year-old...if he could just do that and give her secondhand smoke and endanger her life, what did he care about me. I really felt scared."

Progressive Labor Party has a very different view of what happened. Yanez—along with the Falcon Heights Police Department and the criminal justice system at large—is riding the coattails of an old bosses' ploy: character assassination. As a grandson of Malcolm X wisely observed: "Character assassination is before the physical assassination, so one has to be made killable in the eyes of the public in order for their eventual murder to then be deemed justifiable."

The vicious and racist ruling class began to make Philando Castile killable, along with all those who look like him, during the so-called War on Drugs, beginning in the 1970s. In reality, illegal drug use is approximately equal across all races, but Black and Latin workers are routinely arrested, prosecuted, and incarcerated for drugs at much higher rates. So with the character, dignity, and humanity of Black workers being stripped away for decades, we are seeing widespread state-sanctioned carnage, rationalized by the bosses with racist criminalization.

Tawanda Jones, sister of Baltimore's Tyrone West—murdered by a notorious plainclothes unit of the city's kkkops says, "We won't stop, can't stop,

'til killer cops are in cell blocks!" After he was beaten to death by more than 10 cops in July 2013, the claim was made that Tyrone had a package of drugs under one of his socks. They claimed this became evident when he was forced to sit on the curb, and his pants leg lifted.

The truth, however, is that Tyrone was wearing shorts, and his socks were just ankle height. As with Philando Castile, it was part of a smear campaign and character assassination.

Beware of the bosses' character slander! Communism will fight racism at every level, just like the workers shut down the streets of St. Paul. Reject their lies! We need you to join the fight for a society that has no use for racism or police murderers terrorizing the working class. We need you to fight for communism. Workers of the world unite!✪

Colombia Strike

Continued from page 4

towns where mines are created.

The Colombian government also doesn't care about the workers affected by the expanding mining industry, most of whom come from the poorest parts of the country. President Juan Manuel Santos made mining one of the "motors" of his "Prosperity for All" economic policy, code for "Prosperity for All Capitalists." The government is on the capitalists' side, not the workers'.

As long as the capitalist system exists, labor accidents, premature deaths, wage theft and mass firings will continue to be an everyday occurrence. The greedy ruling class has profited off workers' misery and low salaries. This worksite where there are 160 workers working tirelessly for 60 hours a week is just one example of how the bosses make a profit. It is the job of PLP to organize with workers and raise revolutionary consciousness. Strikes are an important stepping stone in building working class confidence, but we must not stop there. We must abolish the entire capitalist system so that we can win working-class power.

PLP must keep building with workers in all industries and all countries, from construction workers in Colombia to transit workers in Chicago, so that we can build a revolutionary outlook amongst the international working class. We must organize so all of our actions are planned, taking into account our daily experiences, the conscience level and organization of the masses, the strength of the enemy, and our own strength.We can advance with confidence. We must make our revolutionary Party massive, as a necessary step for the communist revolution that will end the vileness of this criminal, racist, capitalist system.✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

Chicago KKKops: 50+ years of racist brutality, torture, cover-ups

NYT, 7/13—…Three…officers…lied about the circumstances in which a white officer fatally shot a black teenager…Laquan McDonald…in the fall of 2014….

This is just the latest horror to emerge from a historically corrupt police department…identified with brutality, conspiracies of concealment and…torture for more than 50 years….

…The department stated…that Mr. McDonald had been killed while approaching officers with a knife. But…13 months later…a police video…showed the teenager veering away from the officers when one of them, Jason Van Dyke, shot him 16 times….

…The officers at the scene immediately colluded to misrepresent the shooting…to protect one another from suspicion. They…filed false reports, including one in which Mr. McDonald was portrayed as assaulting officers….Further…they conspired to ignore witnesses whose accounts…differed from the Police Department's and…failed to preserve physical, video and photographic evidence….

…Investigation of the city's law enforcement practices…found unconstitutional policing was the order of the day.

'Special Counsel' Mueller oversaw FBI abuse of hundreds of Pakistani immigrants

New Yorker, 7/10 (letter)—In the year after 9/11, federal agencies arrested more than two hundred Pakistani immigrants living in New York City….A report…show[ed] that agents had failed to distinguish between suspected ["]terrorists["] and people who had only overstayed their visas. This…was no accident. In 2003, an FBI special agent named Coleen Rowley wrote a letter to the director of the Bureau, Robert Mueller, pointing out that "after 9/11, Headquarters encouraged more and more detentions for what seemed to be essentially PR purposes. Field offices were required to report daily the number of detentions in order to supply grist for statements on…progress in fighting terrorism." The abuse of immigration law enforcement has obvious relevance today, as the Trump Administration attempts to ban Muslim refugees and to tear communities apart through deportation.

Britain's Grenfall fire: government-sanctioned murder for profit

GW, 6/23—For years successive governments have…argued that "red tape" impedes our freedom and….Britain would be a better place with…fewer inspections and less enforcement.

But what they call red tape often consists of essential public protections….The freedom they celebrate…means the freedom of the rich to exploit the poor, of corporations to exploit their workers, landlords to exploit their tenants and industry of all kinds to use the planet as its dustbin….

…The horrific fire in London's Grenfall Tower…able to rage so freely, with such devastating loss of life…was either caused by or exacerbated by the cladding with which the tower was refurbished.

There have been plenty of warnings that cladding can present a severe risk….

But both Conservative and New Labour governments have been highly reluctant to introduce new public protections….They have been highly amenable to tearing down existing protections at the behest of trade associations and corporate lobbyists. Deregulation…is a central theme of the neoliberal ideology…[of] both the Conservatives and Labour under Tony Blair….

In 2014, the then housing minister…rejected calls to force construction companies to fit sprinklers in the homes they built….

…To oblige builders to introduce them would conflict with the government's deregulation agenda….

Conservative MPs see Brexit as an excellent opportunity to strip back regulations….Unnoticed and undebated, crucial elements of public health and safety, workers' rights and environmental protection could be made to disappear.

Housing Segregation, A Pillar of Capitalist Control

Many in the U.S. believe Black and white workers live separately and attend separate schools because they want to live with "their own kind." This belief couldn't be further from the truth! Black, white, and immigrant workers in the U.S. live separately because of housing segregation, a history not taught in capitalist schools. Segregation means the deliberate racial separation the capitalist class enforces through their state—their government, laws, courts, schools, prisons, and racist police. The capitalist class relies on housing segregation to enable other types of segregation, which all promote racism and divisions within the working class.

Communists have a long history of leading antiracist struggles against segregation and for integration. Integration and multiracial unity build the international working-class unity we need to smash this racist, imperialist capitalist system with communist revolution!

The history of housing segregation—and the history of countless neighborhoods that workers in the U.S. live in today—dates back to the 1930s.

1965: Up to 2 million march in Washington against segregation and racism

1930s: Red-Led Workers Fight Like Hell

During the depths of capitalism's "Great Depression" of the 1930s, millions of U.S. workers were organized or directly influenced by the Communist Party. From California to New York to Alabama, from the cities to the fields, communism was a mass movement. Through organizing labor unions to defending the Scottsboro Boys to fighting the Ku Klux Klan and racist police terror, the Communist Party earned the respect of masses of Black, immigrant, and white workers. Communist-led rebellions and fightback terrified the U.S. capitalist class with revolution. Under liberal Democrat president Franklin Roosevelt and his "New Deal," the bosses created social programs that provided some relief from the Depression's devastation while preserving Jim Crow and the worst aspects of U.S. racism. In contrast with the multiracial unity of the Communist Party, the Federal Housing Authority mandated that newly established public housing "projects" across the U.S. were "whites-only."

World War II and Korea's Challenge

The U.S. entered World War II still in the midst of the Great Depression. To try to build U.S. nationalism for the war effort, the bosses desegregated parts of the Army. Black and white soldiers who fought Nazi fascism side-by-side returned battle-hardened, and many were committed antifascists who celebrated the communist-led Soviet Union's leadership of the war.

Faced with segregation in housing back home in the U.S., they fought back. Black soldiers denied apartments in whites-only housing projects in New York demanded an end to the segregated public housing projects. At New York City's largest public college campus, City College, Black and white returning veterans led a student strike against segregated dorms.

Soldiers who were drafted to the genocidal Korean War in 1950 bitterly opposed the U.S. One in three captured U.S. soldiers "actively supported" the communist-led Red Army of China and North Korea, causing the U.S. bosses to panic that "never before in history had so many captured Americans gone to the aid of the enemy" (NYT, 1/6/57).

Once again, an angry and united working class challenged the U.S. bosses' racist and imperialist plans!

Bosses' Response: "Suburbs"

The U.S. bosses' response went further than it had in the 1930s: they adopted a plan to draw white workers into newly created "suburban" towns. Levittown, a "suburb" town outside of New York City, became the model for racist housing developments all around the country."Bill Levitt [the developer of Levittown] only sold houses to white buyers, excluding African Americans…By 1953, the 70,000 people who lived in Levittown constituted the largest community in the United States with no black residents.Activist groups across the U.S. and even individuals within Levittown, who united under the Committee to End Discrimination in Levittown, protested the Levitts' racist policies....but [the courts] ruled that federal agencies were not responsible for preventing housing discrimination (ushistoryscene.com)."Suburbs made it possible for U.S. bosses to legally abolish Jim Crow segregation in schools in 1954, while on the other hand intensifying housing segregation. And even though schools were legally desegregated, the new suburbs allowed the creation of "de facto" segregated majority-white schools.

Nationalism and Racism are Inseparable

The U.S. capitalist class responded politically to the antiracist fightback for integration by pushing nationalism and anticommunism. In the bosses' attempts to rewrite history, they painted communists as the enemy while throwing crumbs to the working class."

In 1957, William and Daisy Myers, a black couple with young children, bought a house in Levittown…with little help from the local police to keep the mobs of angry racists from congregating outside their home day and night.White residents of Levittown and other still segregated communities across the country [used] "Americanism" as justification for racial exclusivity, and painted those who sought to enforce integration as… communist. Suburbs across America were closely intertwined with the preservation of the capitalist American way in the face of growing Soviet international influence (ushistoryscene.com)."

Capitalists created racism—racist divisions never existed within the working class in the first place. Segregation in any form is racist. Today, the U.S. bosses' rule depends on convincing the working class that segregation is somehow natural, and communism is somehow unnatural.At one high school in Brooklyn where students and teachers fight for school integration and multiracial unity, the bosses desperately hope they can scare workers away by branding antiracists as "communists." The Progressive Labor Party embraces our class' proud history of fighting for racial integration! The capitalist class can't rule without racism, and racism can't be maintained without some forms of segregation. Segregation is intertwined with this capitalist system, and when workers are united once again in a mass PLP, communist revolution will destroy it!✪

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